

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 228858

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, BEXP, UR

SUBJECT: SMITHSONIAN - SIBERIA EXHIBIT IN NATIONAL MUSEUM
- - - OF NATURAL HISTORY

1. POCHITALIN HAS SENT EXHIBIT LAYOUT TO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM .WHICH RAISES QUESTIONS REGARDING CONFORMANCE OF EXHIBIT TO AGREED CONTENT AND ITS ACCEPTABILITY FOR PRESENTATION IN SMITHSONIAN. SMITHSONIAN WISHES FORESTALL EMBARRASSMENT OF BEING SENT UNACCEPTABLE EXHIBIT AND WOULD LIKE TO HAVE EMBASSY TRANSMIT SOONEST TO POCHITALIN FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM DR. JAMES MELLO, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM: (BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED)

"DEAR MR. POCHITALIN:

WE HAVE NOW RECEIVED THE LAYOUT FOR YOUR EXHIBIT, "SIBERIA LAND OF TOMORROW". IN ABSENCE OF THE DIRECTOR, PORTER KIER, WHO IS AWAY ON A FIELD TRIP, I FEEL I MUST RAISE THE FOLLOWING POINTS AT WHICH THE LAYOUT INDICATES CONSIDERABLE VARIANCE FROM OUR UNDERSTANDINGS IN OUR INITIAL AGREEMENT. FIRST, THE TITLES FOR THE VARIOUS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 228858

PORTIONS OF THE DISPLAY INDICATE THAT THE EXHIBIT WILL HAVE A WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECT MATTER. I BELIEVE THAT IT WAS

UNDERSTOOD WHEN THIS EXHIBIT WAS PROVISIONALLY ACCEPTED

THAT THE SUBJECT MATTER SHOULD BE AT LEAST 80 PER CENT ORIENTED TOWARD NATURAL HISTORY. SECOND, I NOTE FROM THE LAYOUT THAT THERE ARE 8 FILM OR SLIDE PROJECTION AREAS AND APPARENTLY VERY FEW CASES FOR DISPLAY OF SPECIMENS. I BELIEVE THAT THE ORIGINAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN YOU AND DR. KIER CALLED FOR A SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF SPECIMENS TO BE IN THE EXHIBIT. THIRD, THE LAYOUT OF THE HALL STILL SHOWS A POOL. SINCE YOUR CABLE OF SEPTEMBER 2 STATES THAT YOU WILL NOT BE BRINGING THE BAIKAL SEALS, I ASSUME YOU WILL NOT REQUIRE A POOL.

BASED UPON WHAT WE HAVE BEFORE US NOW, I CANNOT DETERMINE HOW WELL YOUR EXHIBIT FULFILLS THE ABOVE UNDERSTANDINGS. I FEEL THAT I MUST ADVISE YOU THAT THE DIRECTOR WILL NEED TO HAVE INFORMATION ON THESE POINTS BEFORE THE EXHIBIT IS OPENED. IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL IF YOU COULD PROVIDE US WITH THIS INFORMATION BEFORE THE EXHIBIT MATERIALS ARRIVE. IF NOT, THE MATERIALS YOU SEND WILL HAVE TO BE REVIEWED AFTER THEY ARE RECEIVED AND JUDGMENTS MADE AT THAT TIME AS TO THEIR

APPROPRIATENESS. SINCERELY YOURS, JAMES MELLO, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR. KISSINGER

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